

Juvenile Bureau
August 18, 1961
Item H-8507-61

Insert #1

6-4-5

TO : JOSEPH I. GIARRUSO
Superintendent of Police

FROM : AUGUST C. LANG, Lieutenant
Acting Commander, Juvenile Bureau

SUBJECT: Contributing to the delinquency investigation, resulting from the runaway of Alexander Landry Jr. WM Age 15 of 5221 Arts St. The subject alleged to be contributing is Dave Ferrie, WM adult residing 331 Atherton Drive, in Metairie, La.

Pats Roland Fournier and Charles Jonan report of having been assigned to a case involving a runaway on Wednesday August 16, 1961, after being so directed by Lt. August C. Lang, acting commander of the Juvenile Bureau. Investigating Officers met with Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Landry at 5221 Arts St., who are the parents of runaway juvenile Alexander Landry Jr. WM Age 15 of the same address. From Mr. and Mrs. Landry the following information was obtained. On August 2, 1961 Alexander Landry ran away from home and 24 hours later, was found at the home of Capt. Dave Ferrie, a pilot with Eastern Air Lines, who resides at 331 Atherton Drive in Metairie, La., and who supposedly is Landry's unit commander with the Civil Air Patrol. Mr. and Mrs. Landry explained that they called Dave Ferrie's residence to see if their boy was there, and was told by some unidentified voice that their boy was not at Ferrie's residence. Mr. and Mrs. Landry stated that they made this known to Lawrence Marsh WM Age 18 of 4404 Majestic Oaks St., who stated that he would return their son home. Marsh went to Ferrie's residence and later returned with Alexander Landry Jr.

On August 5, 1961 Al Landry ran away from home again, at which time his parents again suspected that Capt Ferrie was assisting the boy in his efforts to stay away from home. As of the 17th of August 1961, Landry has not returned home.

Mr. and Mrs. Landry expressed a lack of confidence in Capt Dave Ferrie. They stated that since their son joined the C.A.P. squadron of Capt Ferrie, that he has never been the same. According to Mr. and Mrs. Landry it was learned that they had thus far, been unable to determine if Ferrie's Civil Air Patrol Squadron's charter is legitimate. Civil Air Patrol Hq., in New Orleans is conducting an investigation and as of this date, it has been found that there is no record of Capt Ferrie's unit in New Orleans, and further that Air Force Hq., in Washington D. C. had no record. Mr. and Mrs. Landry further stated that all of the parents of the boys in the squadron are concerned about the validity of the unit and all feel that their boys are not getting the prescribed training. The F.B.I. was notified about this matter. Mr. and Mrs. Landry stated that Dave Ferrie has taken their son on flights, and has loaned the boy his car, while away on a flight. Mr. Landry stated that he personally saw Dave Ferrie take several of the juvenile boys into a bar and lounge on Homedale Avenue in this city. Mr. Landry stated also, that he has personally observed several boys at the home of Ferrie on several occasions. Mr. and Mrs. Landry state that since their boy met Capt Ferrie, that he has, on many occasions, stayed out until 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning. The Landrys showed investigating officers a publication on the Pelican Squadron, put out by Capt Ferrie. A short article mentioned Alexander Landry, indicating that he was doing well at school, however Mr. and Mrs. Landry told officers that this was untrue, because the fact is that their son is almost failing.

Mr. Landry furnished officers with the names of two of their son's friends in Biloxi and Corpus Christi, Texas. Radiograms were sent to both locations on 8-18-61.

Mr. Landry furnished officers with the following names of boys who were in the Squadron with their son: Richard Dumas WM Age 16 of 2338 Madrid, Lee Beven WM Age 16 of 40 Azalea Drive, in Gretna, La., James Landry WM Age 16 of 3006 Dumaine St., Layton Martens WM Age 19 address unknown, who is alleged to be living with Ferrie, John Espanan WM Age 15 of 2339 Dreaux Ave., and Lawrence Marsh WM Age 18 of 4404 Majestic Oaks.

Investigating officers went to the home of Richard Dumas WM Age 16 of 2338 Madrid St., who told officers that he was in the squadron for about 2 months. Richard stated that on about 2 occasions he slept at Capt Ferrie's house., and that on one occasion, when Layton Martens and Al Landry were there, he (Dumas) slept in the same bed with Capt Ferrie, and that Capt Ferrie masturbated him and at the same time Capt Ferrie masturbated himself. Dumas did not know if Landry and Martens witnessed the act. Dumas stated that Capt Ferrie did this to him on a Saturday in the first or second week of July of this year. Dumas stated that Capt Ferrie was a hypnotist and that he once saw Ferrie put James Landry under hypnosis and tell him (Landry) that he should forget his girl. Capt Ferrie told Dumas that he hated women.

Richard Dumas also told officers that after the runaway of Al Landry, on August 5, 1961, Al was seen in the company of Capt Ferrie on Monday August 7, 1961 at 5:00PM outside of the Balter Building in Capt Ferrie's car and that they were picking up Layton Martens from work. Richard stated that Al Landry was also seen by the Balter Building on Tuesday August 8, 1961. A statement will be taken from Dumas as to the indecent behavior matter and will be turned over to Jefferson Parish authorities. Lt. Henry Sardianga has already been notified of the statement made by Dumas.

* Investigating officers learned that Layton Martens was working in an office in the Balter Building for a Cuban organization helping Cuban refugees in the current Cuban situation, which is headed by Mr. Aroscha Smith, who resides at 112 Egret St. Officers went to this office on the afternoon of August 16, 1961, but were unable to locate Mr. Smith or Layton Martens. Miss Nancy Walker, secretary to Mr. Smith was shown a picture of Al Landry, the runaway boy, and she immediately identified him. She stated that Al had been to the office on two successive days, which she thought were a Monday and a Tuesday. She did not know the dates that she saw Landry but stated that it was definitely after August 5, 1961. She stated that Landry was in the company of Dave Ferrie on the two occasions. Note: This was after the runaway date of Al Landry. It was also learned that Capt Ferrie had volunteered his services to Mr. Smith after the Cuban situation broke, as did Layton Martens. Miss Walker's information somewhat verified the statement made by Richard Dumas. Investigating officers left the office and later contacted Mr. Smith at his residence and he offered to help officers locate the boy. He too had remembered seeing the boy in the office but could not remember the date.

On August 17, 1961 at 7:00PM Mr. and Mrs. Landry received a call from their son in Houston Texas. He told his mother that there was a 50-50 chance that he would ever return home. He told his mother that he would return under the following three alternatives.

Alternatives..... continued.....

1. that she allow the squadron to reorganize
2. that she contact the Airlines and explain this matter to help Capt Ferrie, because he was about to lose his job.
3. that she contact the parents of the other boys and have them withdraw anything said about Ferrie.

Al Landry cut the conversation short with his mother, and she was unable to get any information except that she heard the operator say that the call was coming from Houston, Texas. Investigating officers went to the telephone company and they will attempt to learn the location of the call in Houston. They will also check calls made from Capt Ferrie's house to Houston, if any.

On the afternoon of August 17, 1961, Mr. Smith called officers and requested that he come to his office, which was immediately done. Mr. Smith explained that Capt Ferrie had come to see him and that he, Mr. Smith had informed Capt Ferrie of the investigation being conducted. Mr. Smith stated that he had a statement prepared by Capt Ferrie in his office and turned the statement over to investigating officers. It was typed on a piece of plain solid blue paper and will be entered in evidence. In this statement Ferrie stated that Al Landry came to him after running away from home on August 5, 1961 and that he (Ferrie) advised the boy to return home. The statement of Ferrie indicates that he (Ferrie) drove Al Landry back home and dropped him off at Filmore and Arts St., but that Al ran away again. At 10:00PM the same night Al Landry phoned the Captain and told him that he had runaway from home because he had seen his father and grandfather in the bushes with some kind of weapon in their hands. Al told Capt Ferrie that he was afraid of his life because the family had threatened him before, according to the statement of Ferrie.

Capt Ferrie says in his statement that he suggested to Al to return to his house, but Al refused because he felt that his parents would call the police. Note: As shown in parts of this report, two persons gave statements that after the date of the runaway, Al was seen in Ferrie company, which discredits the statement personally prepared by Dave Ferrie.

In part 3 of the statement, Ferrie stated that he received a call from Al from Houston, Texas, and that he advised the boy to return so that he wouldn't lose his job. In this conversation, Al Landry stated to the captain that he had to have some protection from the police against the things the parents were doing. Capt Ferrie in his statement, also complains about the way Mrs. Landry raises and supervises the boy.

Officers questioned Layton Martens WM Age 19 at the office in the Balter Building he appeared to be withholding information. He stated that he sometime stays with Capt Ferrie, and that his mother just recently moved and he wasn't to certain of her address. He seldom stays with his family. Mr. Landry and Richard Deane had previously stated that Martens is always at Ferrie's residence. It was impossible to get any further information out of this boy. Continued.....

Investigating officers attempted to interview James Landry at 3006 Dumas St., who was out of town on vacation., and it was not known when he would return.

Officers spoke with Leo Bayon WM Age 16 of 40 Azalea Drive, Gretna, La., who stated that he had spent several nights at Dave Ferrie house along with many of the other boys in the squadron. He stated that many of them to sleep on the floor. He denied having any knowledge of Ferrie's sex activity.

Officers spoke with John Espanan WM Age 14 of 2338 Dreaux St., and he too admitted sleeping a Dave Ferrie House but denied having knowledge of Dave sex activity. Mrs. Espanan told officers that on one occasion, she had to admonish John for coming back from Ferrie's house at 12:30AM, when he should have been home at 10:00PM.

Investigating officers presently attempting to question Butch Marsch WM Age 19 of 4404 Majestic St. Officers learned from Mrs. Landry that this boy was deeply involved with Capt Ferrie at one time and that he finally broke away from Ferrie. Butch Marsch was responsible for finding her son at Ferrie's house when he ran away from home on August 2, 1961. Butch is presently working with his father in the construction business and has gotten away from Ferrie. Marsch told Mrs. Landry that the only way her son will leave Ferrie, is when Ferrie finds someone else and drops her son. Mrs. Landry explained that Marsch is growing up and finally realizing that he was wrong.

Mrs. Landry explained further that Capt Ferrie went so far as to go to her son's school and try to get his schedule changed and that school authorities called she and Mr. Landry down to the school. The school authorities felt that the boy could not handle the schedule, proposed by Ferrie. Mrs. Landry pointed out that this was one of the many ways, in which Ferrie has interfered with the raising of her son.

Investigating officers contacted Dave Ferrie. He denied having done anything wrong. He questioned Officers in an effort to learn what information officers had against him. He wanted to know if anything would be done to him after the boy was returned. He harped on the idea that he was interested in the boy's welfare and felt that things are too tough for the boy at home, and wanted to know what would be done to the boy after his return. Ferrie insisted that he didn't know where the boy was staying in Houston but stated that he was flying to Houston "tonight, to see if I can find him and return him to New Orleans".

Investigating officers contacted Lawrence Marsch WM Age 18 of 4404 Majestic Oaks. The report previously refers to him as Butch Marsch. Marsch stated that he assisted Mrs. Landry to get her boy back, ~~xxxxxx~~ when he ran away on August 2, 1961, because he knew quote "that all boys go to Ferrie when they run away from home. He denied having any knowledge of Dave Ferrie behavior in regard to sex. Marsch has know Ferrie for 4 years.

At approximately 3:30PM August 18, 1961, Investigating officer Fournier, received a telephone call from Mr. Archacha from the Elster Building. Mr. Archacha Smith stated that he could get the boy back for us, if we could get a signed statement from the parents indicating that they would not press charges against David Ferrie. Mr. Archacha requested that we have

Continued... the statement from Mr. and Mrs. Landry notarized. Mr. Archacha Smith stated that the boy would be calling him at about 5:00PM and requested that Investigating officers be in his office at 207 Balter Building. Officers contacted Mr. and Mrs. Landry and they agreed to prepared the statement after consulting with city attorney Muller and Lt. August Lang, acting commander of the Juvenile Bureau. Officers went to the Landry residence and picked up Mr. Landry, who immediately drove to have the statement notarized. A copy of this statement is attached to this report.

At 5:20PM, Investigating officers arrived at Mr. Archacha Smith's office in the Balter Building. Mr. Smith stated that he had not heard from Al Landry as yet, but was expecting his call. Officers showed Smith a copy of the statement and he nodded his approval. Mr. Smith expressed his concerned again about what would happen to the Captain of the boy was returned. At approximately 6:25PM, the boy telephone the office while officers were sitting in the office. Officers heard Mr. Smith call him Al and Mr. Smith told Al to come to the office, that he (Smith) was alone. Al Landry arrived in the office about 20 minutes after the phone call. He stated that he had come from the business area of Barronne St., just a few blocks away. When asked why it took him 20 minutes to arrive, he answered that he could not make up his mind to give himself up. Officers took the boy from the building. Mr. Archacha asked officers if they would turn over the statement made by the Landry family, over to him, which was done.

Investigating officers took the boy to the Juvenile Bureau, where his parents were waiting. The boy's mother was in tears, and he walked past her, showing absolutely no emotion for his mother and father, after not seeing them for two weeks. He refused to make a statement against David Ferrie and at times ~~with investigating officers in the room~~, became very angry and arrogant when Capt Ferrie was discussed. He stated that he liked Capt Ferrie. In the presence of Investigating officers, he told his parents that he was going to make a charge against them. He told his parents that he helped Ferrie's attorney prepare a suit against his own parents. The boy had 7.00 dollars in currency on him at the time. He stated to officers that he left home with \$52.00. Mr. and Mrs. Landry insisted that Al had on \$22.00 when he left home. The boy told a long story about his activity while away, and stated that he hitchhiked to the Mississippi Gulf Coast on the night he ran away on August 5, 1961. He returned to New Orleans after about 5 or 6 days and went to see Capt Ferrie. He stated that he spent Monday and Tuesday August 14th and 15th with Capt Ferrie and then hitchhiked to Houston Texas, where he stayed for another week. He stated that when he was in New Orleans, with Capt Ferrie, after coming back from Mississippi, he visited the office of Mr. Archacha Smith in the company of Capt Ferrie. Note: This again verified the statements made by Richard Dumas and Nancy Walker, however there is some confusion as to the dates, because Miss Walker felt that it was Monday and Tuesday August 7 and 8th, 1961, however she was not certain. The boy continued by stating that he left this city on Tuesday night August 15th and hitchhiked to Houston, Texas, where he lived in cheap rooming houses for a week. He stated that he called his parents from the Houston Airport. He stated that he called Capt Ferrie from Houston and learned about the investigation being conducted, and that he finally left Houston on the 17th of August and hitchhiked back to New Orleans. Officers observed that the boy was extremely clean and fresh looking, for having lived as he stated for two weeks. The boy was questioned about

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Sheet #1

trip to Houston. He stated that he crossed the Huey P. Long Bridge, and went to Baton Rouge, La, but did not go thru Houma, La. The routing maps to Houston will show that you would not cross the river bridge at New Orleans, if traveling by way of Baton Rouge to Houston. The boy was questioned about this and he could not give an explanation. The boy flatly refused to make a statement against Mxx David Ferrie, however he did admit that Capt Ferrie took as many as 50 boys to Graci's lounge on Homedale Avenue, and bought them beer, while they were sitting on the restaurant side of the establishment. The boy told his father in the presence of officers, that he was going to make a charge against his father for giving beer to a juvenile one time, while painting the family home. The boy was extremely cold to his parents, and yet it is the opinion of investigating officers that Al Landry comes from as fine a home as any boy could ask for. The boy was questioned further about his trip to Houston, and he answered that he did not remember.

After the interrogation on Friday August 18th, 1961, Al Landry was taken to the Youth Study Center. On Monday August 21, 1961, Investigating officers questioned him further, while at the Center. He refused to make a statement. He stated that he had been to Cuba on several occasions since the revolution and stated that America should wake up because the Russians are 90 miles away. He would not say how he got to Cuba, when he went, or who he went with. He again showed his unconcern for his parents.

Investigating officers, while at the Youth Study Center, discussed Al Landry's case with the assistant superintendent of the institution. He recalled an incident similar to this case involving a runaway boy. The visitor's Record Book was checked and on Page-82, the following entry was made:

8/4 Albert Cheramie Dr. D. Ferrie Vo5-4535 704 Airline Park Blvd. Patient.

Investigating officers observed in the book, a notation written in red pencil, NOT AN OFFICIAL VISIT, indicating that Dr. D. Ferrie had come to see Albert Cheramie, juvenile boy, without authority, acting as a professional man seeing his patient. This book, according to the Youth Study Center policy, can only be signed by parents of a boy, or by professional people who come regularly to see juveniles, are who first obtain permission to see a juvenile, in a professional capacity. Page-82 of the Visitor's Record Book of the Youth Study Center was photostated by the B of I, ~~technical~~ technician Lloyd Macstri, and will be entered in evidence.

Investigating officers checked Juvenile Bureau records and found that on August 4, 1960, Albert Cheramie was handled for running away from home, and was found at the home of David Ferrie, who was then living at 704 Airline Park Blvd. Lt. A. J. Scardina, then Juvenile Officer for Jefferson parish, investigated the case. Attempts are being made to locate the official record at the Juvenile Bureau in Jefferson Parish. The above case is a similar one to the Al Landry matter.

Investigating officers called David Ferrie on August 21, 1961. He was asked by Officer Jones, whether he had a Doctor's degree and was he treating any patients. He stated that he had a degree in psychology and that he didn't treat anyone but he gave advice. When confronted with the fact that he visited the Youth Study Center on 8-4-60 to visit Albert Cheramie, he admitted he had, and stated that he realized he made a mistake after going.

On Monday August 21, 1961, Investigating officers acquired, from Mr. Alexander Landry, the name Eric Michael Crouchet WM Age 16 of 5505 Marais St., another member of the Civil Air Patrol. Officers went to speak with Eric at his job and he agreed to make a statement of his knowledge of Dave Ferrie. Arrangements were made to pick up Eric at his home on the morning of August 22, 1961, which was accomplished. Erick was taken to the East Bank Juvenile Bureau headquarters, of Jefferson Parish, where he made a full typewritten statement in the presence of investigating officers and Sgt. Richard Thompson, of the Jefferson Parish juvenile bureau. Erick stated in his statement that Dave Ferrie committed acts of crime against nature on him on two separate occasions. The Jefferson parish authorities have the original copy of Crouchet's statement and are investigating the crime against nature matter.

Crouchet additionally told investigating officers that Capt Ferrie masturbated him on 4 or 5 occasions, all of which occurred in Jefferson Parish. Crouchet told of having been given alcoholic beverages while at Capt Ferrie's house.

Crouchet made a statement which corroborates the matter involving runaway Albert Cheramie, which has been referred to repeatedly in this report. Crouchet said that when Cheramie ran away from home, that Capt Ferrie instructed him (Crouchet) to watch Cheramie's house to see if Cheramie would come home. Crouchet was instructed by Capt Ferrie to put Cheramie in a cab and send him to Ferrie's house. According to Crouchet, Ferrie told him (Crouchet) that he was going to send Cheramie to Corpus Christi, Texas.

In Crouchet's statement he refers to numerous pieces of ~~pornographic~~ obscene literature and pictures, which was shown him by Ferrie, while at Ferrie's house.

For additional information, see the statement of Crouchet, which is attached to this report.

On Tuesday August 22, 1961 Sgt. Thompson had a search warrant prepared for the residence of Capt Dave Ferrie. At approximately 10:30AM, 8-22-61, Sgt. Richard Thompson, Deputy Roth, and investigating officers Fournier and Jonau, drove to 331 Atherton Drive and presented Ferrie with the search warrant. The entire house was searched, but no obscene pictures were found. Officer Fournier found an official United States passport in the bedroom of Dave Ferrie. The passport, number 2188946, was taken out in the name of Eunice Albert Paul Cheramie on August 2, 1960, showing his birth date to be Sept 6, 1943. The picture in the passport was that of Albert Cheramie, the boy referred to in this report, who ran away from home on July 9, 1960 and was reported to the Juvenile Bureau. Note: The passport date of issuance 8-2-60, was two dates before Ferrie's unauthorized visit to the Youth Study Center, to see Cheramie in the capacity of a Doctor visiting his patient. Ferrie was questioned about this passport and he stated that he had it made for Albert Cheramie, because he and several other people were planning to go to Honduras to do some mining. Investigating officers contacted Mr. Hughes Cheramie, father of Albert, who stated that he knew of the passport, but did not approve of it. Mr. Cheramie said that he has been trying to get the passport back for a long time.

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Report continued..... Page-8

Item H-8507-61

During the search of Ferrie's residence, Sgt. Thompson found a letter signed by Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Landry, and this letter was in an envelope, which was not postmarked. The envelope was marked "Cuban Revolutionary Democratic Front". Officer Fournier was shown the letter found by Sgt. Thompson, and it was immediately identified as the statement written by the Landry family, and turned over to Mr. Arcasha Smith, for the purpose of getting their son back.

Sgt. Richard Thompson took Capt Ferrie into custody and later booked him in the East Bank Jail with Crime Against Nature and Indecent Behavior with a Juvenile. Ferrie gave his name as David William Ferrie Age 43 of 331 Atherton Drive.

On August 23, 1961, investigating officers questioned another member of the Civil Air Patrol, James J. Landry Age 16 of 3006 Dumaine St., to the matter of Capt David Ferrie. Landry told of being served whiskey and beer while at Ferrie's house. Landry told of Capt Ferrie showing him obscene pictures of man and women committing the sex act. Landry stated that Dave Ferrie masturbated him, while he was in Ferrie's bed, spending the night. Landry could not remember the date, but stated that Ferrie jerked him off about 3 times. Landry stated that these acts occurred during the early part of 1961. Statement made by Landry will be sent to Sgt. Thompson. Several copies will be retained by investigating ~~and~~ officers and made part of this report.

The District Attorney will be consulted in this matter. Any further information will be reported in the form of a supplementary report.

Patn Roland Fournier
Writer, Invest. Officer

Patn Charles Jenam
Investigating officer

Approved

Oren M. Robran, Sergeant
Acting Commander, Juvenile Bureau